**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Afghanistan, 21st of January 2019**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan and thank them for the comprehensive presentation of their national report.

We commend the efforts by the Government of Afghanistan since the last cycle of the UPR and their efforts to promote and protect human rights in the country despite the challenges that the country is facing.

We acknowledge the government’s commitment to protect the rights of internally displaced persons and returnees and providing effective mechanisms for addressing their specific needs in this regard **we recommend the government to increase their efforts and prioritize the implementation of the IDP Policy to ensure that the most urgent needs of those displaced are met and sufficient resources allocated.**

We also welcome the government’s efforts to promote women’s rights including through placing women’s empowerment in all national document and the ratification of the national action plan for UNSC resolution 1325 and in this regard, we **recommend Afghanistan to ensure that women can fully and meaningfully participate in decision-making in all initiatives related to national and local level peace processes.**

We wish Afghanistan a successful review.

I thank you,

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